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FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

EXPENDITURE.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

Fort William, the 10th August 1874.

No. 4857.

READ AGAIN—

Financial Resolution No. 3416, dated 30th May 1874, regarding the supply and adjustment of the cost of articles of church furniture when new churches have to be furnished.

READ—

A letter from the Archdeacon of Calcutta, No. 199, dated 17th July 1874, stating with reference to this Department's communication No. 4126, dated 30th June 1874, that the following scale of allowances appears reasonable, and making observations on the articles provided by the Public Works Department:—

	Rs.
1.—A set of communion plate	150
2.—Altar cover	150
3.—Bible, prayer book, office book for communion table, and for cemetery	50
4.—A "fair linen cloth" and three napkins for communion service	35

RESOLUTION.—The Governor General in Council is pleased to adopt the recommendation of the Venerable the Archdeacon of Calcutta.

ORDERED, that a copy of the foregoing Resolution, together with a copy of the Archdeacon's letter No. 199 of 17th July 1874, and an extract (para 2) of Home Department Proceedings, No. 88 of 20th March 1872, be distributed for information and guidance as follows:—

- 1.—To the several Departments of the Government of India.
- 2.—To the several Local Governments and Administrations.
- 3.—To the Comptroller General and to the several Accountants General, and Deputy Accountants General in independent charge.
- 4.—To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, and the Venerable the Archdeacon of Calcutta.

R. H. HOLLINGBERRY,
Asstt. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ENCLOSURE TO RESOLUTION No. 4857 OF 1874.

From—The Venerable J. BALY, Archdeacon of Calcutta, To the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, No. 199, dated 17th July 1874.

With reference to No. 115, A. B, Government of India, Department Public Works, of 14th March 1874, relative to certain articles of church furniture, I have the honor to say that the following scale of allowances appears reasonable:—

	Rs.	
(1). A set of communion plate	150	} The sum allowed at present.
(2). Altar cover	150	
(3). Bible, prayer book, office book for communion table, and for cemetery	50	
(4). A "fair linen cloth" and three napkins for communion service	35	

With reference to the articles provided by the Department of Public Works, one altar chair and two chairs for the vestry are sufficient, and I beg to suggest that in lieu of those omitted a lectern should be allowed, from which the lessons should be read, and in the smaller churches, where there is no pulpit, the sermon also be preached. The reading-desk in this case need not be so large or so high, and considerable inconvenience to the Clergyman or officer reading would be avoided; the additional cost to Government would be very trifling, as the amount saved by the omission of one altar and one vestry chair and a smaller reading-desk would almost, if not quite, suffice for the purchase of a lectern.

I also have the honor to suggest that wherever it is desired by the Church Committee of a station, the same principle should be adopted for articles of church use provided now by the Department Public Works as for those mentioned above, *viz.*, that a definite sum be allowed for each article, proportioned to the class of church, and that the Church Committee be permitted to provide them. It would be more convenient and not more expensive to Government, while it would tend to stimulate the liberality of the congregation.

Extract, Para 2, of Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Home Department,
No. 88, dated 20th March 1872.

PARA 2.—The Lord Bishop of Calcutta suggests that the “reading-desk” should be a simple desk, however appropriately shaped. His Lordship also considers it desirable that when a church is to be furnished, the Public Works Department should inform the Church Committee or Clergyman in charge of the amount sanctioned for the separate items, and thus give the community an opportunity of adding by private subscription to the elegance or convenience of any of the articles of furniture.
